Travancore
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Tuesday,
9th March 1909.

Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 12 Noon, on Thursday the 25th February 1909.
14th Mausy 1084.

PRESENT

Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Chari, Esquire, C. I. E.,
Dewan ... ... *Presiding.*

A. J. Vieyra, Esq., B. A.,
R. Ananda Row, Esq., B. A. & B. L.,
K. P. Sankara Menon, Esq., B. A. & B. L.,
S. Subramania Iyer, Esq.,
K. K. Kuruvila, Esq., B. C. E.

K. Narayanan Pandalay, Esq., B. A. & B. L. ... *Secretary.*

THE FOREST REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this amending Bill, I have mentioned the necessity for the present Bill. I shall now shortly refer to the several proposed amendments.

1. In Section 2 of the existing Regulation, I have proposed several verbal alterations and amendments, which are found necessary, as it happens to be the interpretation-clause of the Regulation.

2. I have added a sub-clause to Section 6, clause (*b*). This is suggested in order that the service of notice by the Forest Settlement Officer may be ensured and also that the reputed owner of the land in question may have information of what is proposed to be done affecting his land.

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3. The substitution of the word 'may' for 'shall' in para 4 of Section 8, is a mere verbal alteration.

4. I have added a new section numbered as Section 18 A. This is done to bring about finality in the matter of the presentation and disposal of claims.

5. In Sections 19 and 21, I have proposed mere verbal alterations.

6. I have added a new section numbered as Section 21 A. This new Section imposes a duty upon certain classes of persons to render help to the Forest department in the matter of the conservation of forests. I may assure you that this provision is not likely to impose any duty that cannot be reasonably expected from the classes of persons on whom it is imposed.

7. In Section 22, I have added two more clauses. They relate merely to the departmental working of the Regulation.

8. In Section 33, I have added a clause at the end of clause (1) of the Section, which is meant simply to explain that clause, and have also added two other clauses referring to the use of property-mark for timber and to the maintenance and safeguarding of the channels and banks of rivers used for the transit of timber or other forest produce. I have no doubt you will all agree with me in considering that these clauses are very necessary.

9. In Section 38, I have proposed a slight amendment with regard to the articles or things used in committing forest offences.

10. In Sections 44, 51 and 55, I have suggested mere verbal alterations.

11. I have recast Section 58 of the Regulation whereby any grantee of land is made to pay for all trees and timber found on such land, before he begins cultivation thereon. This proposal not only conserves forest revenue but also helps the grantee, inasmuch as he ascertains the exact amount that he has to pay, and there cannot thereafter be any dispute between the Forest department and himself.

12. In Section 59, I have added a new clause whereby evidence recorded under the provisions of this Section may be utilised in a court of law. This is a new provision, and is found in the British Act. It saves the production of witnesses in Courts from long distances and away from the scene of offence, as well as the time of the Court.

With these few words, I beg to introduce the amending Bill for the consideration and acceptance of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—Sir, I have the honor to introduce a Bill to provide for the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures throughout Travancore. Leave was granted to me to introduce a Bill for the purpose, at the meeting of the Council held on the 30th November 1908. The Bill has been duly published in the Gazette and copies circulated among the Members, and the Statement of Objects and Reasons briefly explains its provisions. There is no general principle to be explained at length, and I will only offer a few words of explanation in regard to the several clauses of the Bill, although there appears to be little to add to the remarks in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

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